

Weekly Views

September 9, 2011

State Senator John Waterman and his associate Jay Hood visited the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility PLUS Unit, which lived up to its dedication to community service. Native American PLUS participants presented Senator Waterman with 800 medicine bags and other items for the Sullivan County POW WOW that will be held at Shakamak State Park September 17th and 18th. This is the second annual visit Senator Waterman has made to the WVCF PLUS Unit to accept these gifts and to tour the unit. (See photo below)

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility (PNJCF) Culinary Students worked with the Pendleton Library Community Garden Project to make salsa. The library brought the garden produce to PNJ, and our students and their teacher made the salsa. The salsa will be packaged by the Pendleton Library Community Garden Project and then sold at a community fund raiser.

PEN products held a Career Path Planning Workshop at Miami Correctional Facility for 24 offenders along with 12 practitioners including IDOC, Community Corrections and the Department of Workforce Development. This one day workshop includes self-assessments along with training decision making, employment retention and time management.



Barbara Holcomb, Equine Management Instructor at the Putnamville Correctional Facility, was the guest speaker at the Brazil Rotary Club. In appreciation of her appearance and support of the program, club members pledged donations for a silent auction that will be held October 1st at the Indiana Derby. Proceeds from the auction will be used to fund the facility equine program, a subsidiary of the Thoroughbred Retirement Foundation, a non-profit organization.

Pendleton Correctional Facility Officers Curtis Bynum, Steven Hill, and Anthony Nunley were recognized during a pinning ceremony at the facility to acknowledge their promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

Westville Correctional Facility's east entrance, located off SR 421, has taken on a new look thanks to a landscape renovation by the facility's Horticulture Class. The offender students, under the direction of Ms. Willard, designed and planted the foliage to spruce up the entrance.

Branchville Correctional Facility is pleased to announce that Crisis Connection has recognized PLUS Case Manager Kelly Hubert and Addiction Recovery Specialist Jackie Coultas with a "Special Someone" Award. Crisis Connection tries to honor people who go above and beyond with no expectation of praise other than the reward inherent in making a difference. The Branchville PLUS Program also donated over 25 offender-made quilts to Crisis Connection.

Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility donated over 63 pounds of fresh vegetables to Second Helpings Food Rescue Mission. The vegetables, which included cucumbers, cabbage, tomatoes, broccoli, beans, celery, cantaloupe, and bell peppers, were harvested from the facility's resident-run garden.

Twenty-one staff and six offenders from the New Castle Correctional Facility were part of the 550 plus volunteers that participated in the Henry County United Fund's Day of Caring. New Castle and Geo Group donated \$5,000 to the Henry County United Fund at the kick-off during the Day of Caring.

Madison Juvenile Correctional Facility (MJCF) Superintendent Jan Davis announced the promotion of a custody officer at the facility. Valerie Copeland has been promoted from Correctional Officer to Correctional Sergeant. Sergeant Copeland began her career in corrections at MJCF on August 20, 2009. She is a member of the facility's Quick Response Team, Weapon's Team, and Cell Extraction Team. She was honored in November 2010 as "Employee of the Month." She most recently has been working as the "Officer in Charge" of Promise Junior Senior High School. Sergeant Copeland has been recognized for her communication skills, good judgment, professionalism, work ethic and for improving the conduct of the students during school.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility conducted a ceremony to acknowledge the most recent graduates of the facility's PLUS Program. Mr. Virgil Madden, who serves as Policy Advisor to Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, was the guest speaker for the event.

Residents at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility along with Superintendent Beckie Bennett and Volunteer & Community Services Coordinator Richard Rosales appeared as guests on the British Broadcasting Channel's popular radio program "World Have Your Say". Topics of discussion included the American Judicial System, sentencing reform, the residents' expectations about community reception and overcoming the stigma of incarceration.